

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 3, 2001

His Excellency Muhammad Hosni Mubarak
Office of the President
Al Etehadia Building
Heliopolis Cairo, Egypt

Dear President Mubarak:

As members of the House of Representatives who have been strong supporters of United States aid to Egypt as well as active proponents of fair treatment of lesbian and gay people, we write to express our very strong disapproval over the arrest of 52 men in Egypt on the basis of their perceived sexual orientation.

We believe the decision of the Egyptian government to prosecute these men who have been accused of engaging in consensual sexual activity with adult persons of the same sex, and in a state security court under Egypt's emergency laws, is indefensible.

As you know, Egypt is the second largest recipient of U.S. foreign assistance. We note that this assistance comes from the people of the United States, including a great number of taxpayers who are gay and lesbian, and it is approved by members of Congress, many of whom are fully supportive of the right of gay and lesbian people to be free from discrimination and violence. Given this, it is very troubling for us to hear that these Egyptian men are not only facing trial and possible jail sentences, but also may have been mistreated, beaten or tortured while in detention.

We believe close cooperation between Egypt and the United States on many issues is in our mutual interest, and this adds to our concern over the negative impact this incident will have if it is uncorrected.


REP. TOM LANTOS


REP. NITA M. LOWEY


REP. CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY


REP. BARBARA LEE

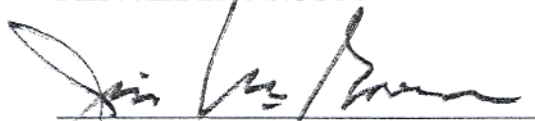

REP. NANCY PELOSI


REP. JOHN LEWIS

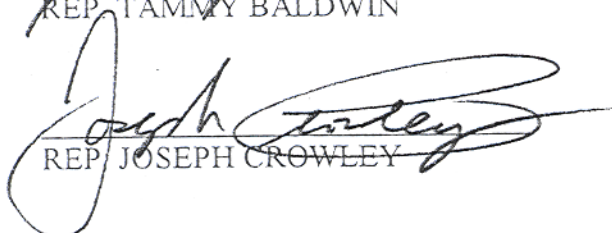

REP. BARNEY FRANK


REP. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN


REP. STENY H. HOYER


REP. JAMES P. MCGOVERN


REP. TAMMY BALDWIN


REP. JOSEPH CROWLEY


REP. ELIOT L. ENGEL


REP. JIM MCDERMOTT


REP. FRANK PALLONE, JR.


REP. NEIL ABERCROMBIE


REP. JOHN B. LARSON


REP. LYNN N. RIVERS


REP. BRIAN BAIRD

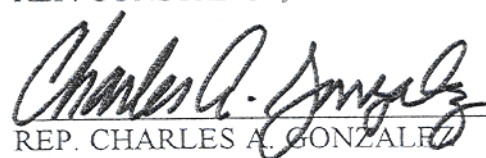

REP. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

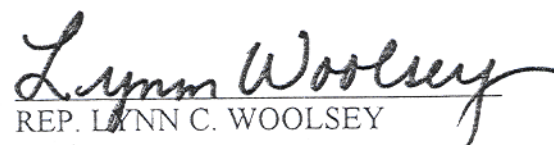

REP. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

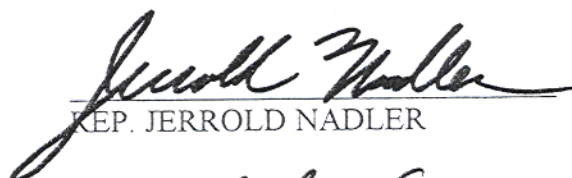

REP. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT


REP. ROBERT WEXLER

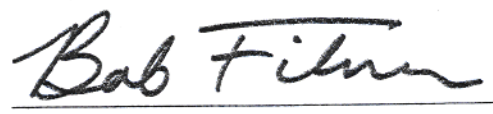

REP. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

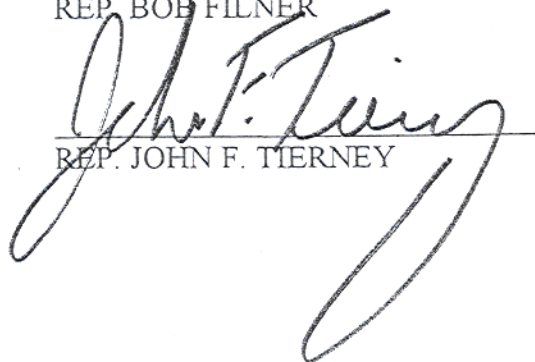

REP. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

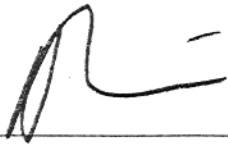

REP. LYNN C. WOOLSEY


REP. JERROLD NADLER


REP. BERNARD SANDERS


REP. BOB FILNER

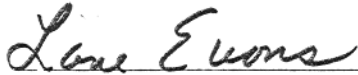

REP. JOHN F. TIERNEY



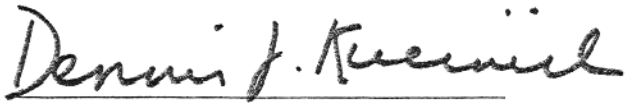
REP. ANTHONY D. WEINER



REP. GEORGE MILLER



REP. LANE EVANS



REP. DENNIS J. KUCINICH



REP. FORTNEY PETE STARK